

Thorndon School Newsletter

15/2009

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Children have to be educated, but they have also to be left to educate themselves.

Abbé Dimnet

Action List

Activity fees for Term 2 are \$25:00 and are due now.

Remember no lunch orders on Mondays

Junior School Information session on Tuesday.

Have you sent in your donation?

Dear Parents

Kia ora.

We have been delighted with the response to the various information sessions we have organised this term. Thank you very much to everyone who has attended a session. It seems that the times of these sessions work well for parents. We have had two sessions on the new curriculum, one an evening session, one a lunchtime session for the parents of Year 5/6 children, and we have a meeting with the parents of Maori/Pasifika children this evening. Next week we have another lunchtime session with parents of Year 3/4 children. These consultation meetings will continue over the rest of the year so if you are unable to attend the first one you are invited to there will be other opportunities. The junior school is also running lunchtime sessions on specific areas of the curriculum.

I mentioned the National Standards a couple of weeks ago and yesterday I joined most other Wellington principals at a consultation meeting run by Ministry officials and attended for a short while by the Minister. It would be fair to say that there is considerable concern in the sector about the standards, the speed with which they have been developed, their purpose, and the very short period allowed for consultation. While we are told that they represent an opportunity, the lack of clarity about what is to be reported to the Ministry and how the information might be used leads to speculation that we may be heading down a similar track to the US and the UK, a track generally acknowledged to have been unhelpful to children's learning. Legislation means that the standards in some form will be implemented and we hope that the feedback the Ministry gains from these consultations will result in something we all have confidence in. Parents are being consulted but the only formal consultation will be through a limited number of schools selected to give a spread across geographic areas, deciles, rural/urban mix, and size. If you would like to give some feedback you can access details from the Ministry website and I put the links to these in the Newsletter number 13, two weeks ago.

Bill Sutton

Lunches

Because children can only order Subway sandwiches on Fridays now there is no lunch order available on Mondays rather than Fridays as it used to be. Lunches from Wholly Bagels continue to be available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



entertainment™

We have had another successful year with sales of the Entertainment Book, once again boxing well above our weight though we are well short of our target figure of 240 – one for every pupil.

We have sold 132 but there are still books available and we can supply as many as you like. The book has only just become "live" so there is a full year of use available to anyone who buys one now.

Discovery Learning Materials

A little while ago I asked for materials and equipment for our Discovery Learning programme and we have had a great response. There will always be things we need and some we buy but if we can get them donated so much the better. We would like to get hold of some more cooking utensils – baking trays, mixing bowls, cake tins, saucepans etc so if anyone has any they no longer need we would love to have them.

We are still looking for a woodwork table so if anyone has one or knows where we might be able to access one we would be very grateful.

Successes

Congratulations to Aliyah de la Mare who has made the Year 7 Rep Team for the Northern Suburbs.

Aliyah is a member of the school's top team which plays regularly on Saturday mornings. Well done Aliyah.

In a completely different field, congratulations are due to Brianna Anglesey. Brianna has been a part of the local country music scene for a number of years now and we have mentioned earlier successes in the past. She recently competed in the Golden Guitar competition in Gore and was highly commended in the NZ composition section with a song she composed herself. She also came second in the Solo vocal section and, with her sister and a cousin, won the Intermediate Group section. The following piece appeared in the Otago Daily Times.

“Junior winner Kaitlyn Watene, of Auckland, adds some soul to the genre before fellow entrant Brianna Anglesey, all pigtails and sassy attitude from Lower Hutt, heralds a procession of struts, pouts and high notes that bounce off the auditorium’s iron roof for the next four hours.”

As well as enjoying this success Brianna met those icons of New Zealand Music, the Topp Twins, so it was a very satisfactory few days for her.

Congratulations Brianna.



Term 2 Calendar

Jun 8	Y1/2 to Te Papa - Matariki
Jun 9	Wellington Girls Open day.
Jun 9	Y 5/6 to Te Papa - Matariki
Jun 9	Junior Curriculum information – Discovery
Jun 10	Y3/4 to Te Papa - Matariki
Jun 11	Curriculum Consultation Meeting - lunchtime
Jun 11	Stage Challenge Y7/8
Jun 16	Senior Girls Self Defence
Jun 16	Inter Zone Cross Country.
Jun 16	Junior Curriculum information - Maths
Jun 17	Senior Girls Self Defence
Jun 23	BoT Meeting
Jun 23	Junior Curriculum information - Assessment
Jun 29	Y 4-8 to performance at Capital E
Jul 1	Wellington High School Open Evening
Jul 3	Term Ends

Cross Country

On Tuesday a team of about 45 children from school competed in the Central Zone Cross Country Competition at McAlister Park. On a day dominated by Brooklyn School our children all competed to the best of their ability and the following children enjoyed some success, placing in the top fifteen of their events.

Year 4 Girls	McKenzie-Anee Brown	14 th
	Erin Monckton	15 th
Year 4 Boys	Connor Smith	2 nd
	Callum Hancock (only in Y3)	5 th
Year 5 Boys	Shaun Corfield	6 th
	Joshua Wight	12 th
Year 6 Girls	Eliza Muldrock	8 th
Year 6 Boys	Connall Deacon	10 th
Year 7 Girls	Alex Gooch	4 th
	Mikaela Bovey	9 th
Year 7 Boys	Matt Robilliard	11 th
Year 8 Girls	Anna Caudwell	4 th
	Asia Brownlie	6 th
	Raiha Blane	11 th
Year 8 Boys	Dylan Hefford-Thomsen	15 th

Congratulations to all of these children, some of whom may go on to represent Central at the Interzone competition.

Information Sessions

Junior school staff have held two successful information sessions for the parents of children in the first four years at school, one on Writing and one on Reading.

The programme continues with a session next week on Discovery Learning. This is a new programme we have adopted across the school and if there are any parents of Year 5/6 children who would like to attend they would be most welcome.

Tuesday June 9, 1:30pm in the staffroom.

Nits!

We seem to have been relatively untroubled this year though I know that some classes have been bothered. It is an ongoing problem for schools and parents.

We have a little "outbreak" at the moment so it might pay to check your children's heads. This is always more of a problem in the junior school so it is particularly important for the parents of children in Years 1 – 4.

Earth Hour Celebrations

On Wednesday some of our classes went down to Parliament to hear how many people had participated in Earth Hour.

First there were some speeches and we found out that 51% of all New Zealanders turned off their lights for an hour to show their commitment to slowing down climate change.

I then presented the New Zealand Earth Hour collage/book to Nick Smith, the Minister for the Environment. It was amazing to be chosen to do this and thank you to the school for choosing me to present this great book to the Minister. Thanks to my class for supporting me.

Asia Brownlie Room 9

New Children

We have one child to welcome back this week. She is:

Taawera Samuels-Kaio	Y 5	Room 2 - Rimu
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Taawera moved to Rotorua earlier this year but we always expected her return. It is nice to see her back a little earlier than anticipated.

Open Evening

**Wellington High School
6:00pm
Wednesday 1 July**

The evening starts with a tour of the school which is followed by an address by the Principal.

Wellington Technical College and Wellington High School celebrate 125 years over the Easter Weekend of 22 – 24 April 2011. If interested please go to the school website and follow the Reunion 2011 link.



This picture shows children from Thorndon School making the figure 51 for the 51% of New Zealanders who "turned off" for Earth Hour, a great effort considering that there had been no preparation for doing this.

